

AMBASSADOR

Aber Suzuki Center

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point
College of Fine Arts and Communication

*Changing lives by providing the best in performance,
creativity, and expression*

May 2006

From the Director's Desk

By Dee Martz

Now that we are at the end of our first year in the Noel Fine Arts Center I find myself reflecting on the goals and dreams that the Suzuki faculty established more than a decade ago. One goal, which admittedly seemed very distant, was that the Suzuki programs would be housed in a state of the art facility. It is clear to all of us that, thanks to support from the UWSP College of Fine Arts and Communication, the university community as a whole and the state of Wisconsin, this dream has been realized. Another goal was to add a Suzuki piano specialist to the faculty. We had a bit more control over this dream and it became reality when Tom Yang joined the faculty. A third goal was to find some way to minimize the waiting list situation. About two years ago we came up with a way to increase the availability of Suzuki Talent Education in central Wisconsin by actively recruiting qualified, independent Suzuki teachers to the area. We are making progress in this area and with the opening of Heidi Corcoran's Prairie Oaks Conservatory and the planned return of Jenny Burton, there will be more high quality Suzuki training available for families in this area. I do realize that the UWSP Suzuki faculty's efforts are perhaps only tangential in this change, but with a nationally announced program to assist and integrate qualified Suzuki teachers in Central Wisconsin I do think that an obviously welcoming atmosphere was created.

The faculty of the Aber Suzuki Center continues to plan for and dream about the future of Suzuki Talent

Education in Central Wisconsin and to reach toward realizing our mission statement: *"It is the mission of the Aber Suzuki Center to nurture, educate and inspire students, parents and teachers to incorporate the philosophical principles and music education methods of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki into their lives."*



Take Advantage of the Summer and Grow!

By Mary Hofer

Every year parents ask me whether their children should take summer Suzuki lessons. The parent in me understands how enticing a carefree summer break can be for my children but the teacher in me sees very clearly what an opportunity for continued improvement the summer can be for my students!

During the regular school year students are often involved in a wide array of activities and have a lot of homework and other school-related stuff to worry about. The winter cold and flu season can also set students' Suzuki progress back a week or more. It is a huge challenge for students to build their Suzuki skills while juggling so many balls!

Summer, on the other hand, is the perfect time to start new music -- to get excited about a new song or piece! Summer can be a wonderful time to practice in a relaxed manner without the worry of rushing somewhere to meet a number of other commitments. Memorizing new music is easier during the summer when the music isn't competing with other subjects that need to be studied and remembered. With summer Suzuki lessons, the fall semester can be devoted to polishing pieces rather than beginning them!

During the summer months everyone can be more relaxed and keep the music out and handy all day. Parents can encourage their children to practice several times a day in short increments. Research tells us small muscle building is more effective when done a little at a time several times a day. This summertime relaxed, incremental practicing luxury isn't often possible during the school year.

Summer road trips and vacations provide a great opportunity to listen to music repeatedly. Don't forget to keep your Suzuki CDs in the car so they are readily available to be played during road trips!

Musical performance is a skill which requires the discipline of regular lessons and dedicated practices to maintain and improve it. The muscles and coordination required to produce beautiful music cannot be maintained without regular lessons and practice. The inspiration and motivation provided by lessons and practice is also very important to the continued development of each student's special talents.

It is common to have to devote several lessons in the fall to backtracking in order to regain the skill level the student attained in May but lost over the summer. By late October or early November the progress regained becomes vulnerable to the flu and cold season!

As with athletic pursuits, musical performance is a skill that requires dedicated year-round practice. Those that compete in triathlons, for example, are coached and train all year long for several years before competing in events. Likewise, Suzuki musicians need year-round coaching and practice to succeed and grow!

And there's an added benefit to summer lessons! The summer Suzuki lesson schedule still leaves Suzuki families plenty of time to pursue their leisure activities. So please review your family's summer plans and help your child set goals. Take advantage of summer Suzuki lessons to help your child maintain his or her current skills and achieve even greater skills!

Notes From the Endpin

By Lawrence Leviton

Congratulations to all of you who participated in the Festival Concert on April 30th. It was a pleasure sitting in front of you on the stage at Ben Franklin and hearing your wonderful ensemble playing. Thanks for all of the hard work that you put in-it really paid off with a wonderful performance. Bravo!

Thanks also to all of the students who played at the retirement home last month and to Carolyn Rundell for her leadership. I've heard very nice things about your performance and I know the residents were appreciative of your efforts.

Tony Ross Master Class and Performance

Tony Ross, the principal cellist in the Minnesota Orchestra will be in town to give a performance with the Wood County Symphony on May 12th. He will be playing the Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations and Silent Woods by Dvořák. Mr. Ross is a fantastic cellist and this will a wonderful opportunity to hear two beautiful cello pieces performed by a great artist. Please see me for ticket information. He will also be giving a Master Class on that morning, from 10-12 AM in room 240-Noel Fine Arts Building. All are welcome to attend.



Voila Viola

By Dee Martz

Frankly, I had a bad attitude when I went to the recent program of the Fine Arts Quartet on the Michelsen Hall stage. I was tired and cranky. Besides, I had heard the Fine Arts Quartet a number of times over the decades and lately I had not been that impressed. I wondered if they would ever play as well as they did in their glory days of the 1950's. Of course, when membership changes in a string quartet the quality and character of the group is bound to change. The two violinists and the cellists have played together for 25 years but with three different violists in the last few years I really wondered what to expect. I am surprised and pleased to report that I was blown away by the quality of the performance. I found the passion expressed in the Shostakovich quartet to be particularly moving. Hearing the wonderful sound from the violists, Yuri Gandelsman, made me want to explore different tone colors and approaches to sound

production. The Fine Arts Quartet is once again making a lot of recordings and is truly living up to its reputation as a world-class chamber ensemble. In my opinion the quality and character of this group has changed quite dramatically--they are experiencing an artistic rebirth that is definitely worth noting. So, if you have a chance to hear the Fine Arts Quartet in Milwaukee or on a CD, I certainly recommend that you take the time to witness their joy of making music together.



Faculty News

April 6-9, Dee Martz attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas in Arlington Heights, Ill. Mrs. Martz continues to serve as secretary on the SAA Board.

Dave Becker, Kyoko Fuller and Dee Martz performed in the final concerts of the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra's 2005-2006 season on April 22 and 23.

In April, Lawrence Leviton performed on Paul Doebler's Flute recital and also performed with the University Chamber Strings on the UWSP Music Department's Soiree Musicale.

Pat D'Ercole, Kyoko Fuller and Dave Becker played in the orchestra for the performance of the St. Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach on Friday, April 14 at Thrinity Lutheran Church and the Church of the Intercession. ASC students, Jane Mitchell, Katie Munck and Quinn O'Reilly also played in the orchestra.



Student News

Dawn Passineau will present her senior Recital on Sunday May 21 at 7:30. She will be assisted on violin by her brother Forest who is an alumnus of the Suzuki program. Works will include compositions by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Gounod/Bach, Haydn, Kabalevsky and Mier. The program will take place in Michelsen at the Noel Fine Arts Center. Come out and celebrate this achievement with Dawn!

ASC violist Chris Droske will be playing horn in the 2006 Wisconsin State Honors Orchestra.

Emma and Gretchen Sands and Maria Marchel performed with the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival Orchestra on Sunday, April 9th.

Kelley Rolak and former ASC student, Chris Marion participated in a master class offered by Janice Martin, professional violinist who presented "Paganini Mania" and event featuring dance, song and violin. Martin received her training at Julliard and Indiana University School of Music.

Christopher Marion, violin, received a full tuition scholarship for a 5 week summer jazz program at the Berklee School of Music in Boston.

Congratulations and thanks to the following ASC students who participated in the Arts Walk on Friday, April 21st by providing entertainment at the Emy J's: Craig and Tom Felt, Roshini and Dinesh Traynor, Anjali Iyengar, Christina, Teresita and Maria Marchel, Emily Spaid, Sawyer and Alyssa Eiden, Maleah Zinda and Rachel Ley.

Kayla Provisor will perform her Senior Voice recital Friday, May 12th at 7pm in Michelsen Hall. David Becker will assist on Piano. A reception in the Suzuki Suite will follow.

Kayla will perform a wide variety of works including Art Song, Opera, and Musical Theater.

Kayla a Senior at Spash has performed with the Spash Counterpointers, Alice in Sexual Assault Land and the Spash Musicals for the past several years. Kayla is also involved in Students Against Destructive Behavior, and Adventure Club. She has been accepted into the UWSP Acting Program and hopes to pursue a degree in Theatre.



April 2006 Graduates

Sienna Borchardt, Piano Twinkle
Michael Crump, Violin Book 5
Alyssa Schroeckenthaler, Violin Twinkle
Sarah Bauer, Cello Book 3
Danny Janik, Cello Book 3

Lucas Chan, Violin Book 6
Lara Prebble, Viola Book 1
Alan Kiepert, Violin Book 3
Christina Marchel, Violin Book 2
Teresita Marchel, Violin Book 4
Gwynna Norton, Piano Book 2



Upcoming Events

Friday, May 12th, Kayla Provisor Senior Recital, 7:00 pm,
Michelsen Hall

Saturday, May 13th, Solo & Ensemble Concert, 2:00 and
3:30 pm, Michelsen Hall

Saturday, May 13th, CSCO Concert, 7:30 pm, Michelsen
Hall

Sunday, May 14th, Piano Festival Concert, 2:00 and 3:30
pm, Michelsen Hall

Sunday, May 21st, Dawn Passineau Senior Recital, 7:30
pm, Michelsen Hall



2006 American Suzuki Institute

If you are interested in attending the 2006 American Suzuki Institute, apply early! Applications are accepted in the order in which they are received, and enrollment is limited. Indications are that the violin sessions will be filling up within the next couple of weeks.

Applications are available on our website at: www.uwsp.edu/cofac/suzuki, or you can pick one up from the bookcase located in the waiting room.

The next issue of the Ambassador will be published October 1st! Have a great summer!

HAVE A SAFE
AND HAPPY
SUMMER!